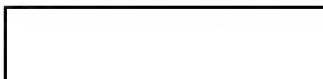


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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
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*Italy: The bitter presidential election has intensified sharp divisions within the Christian Democratic Party (CD) and the coalition itself, and it is doubtful whether the Moro government can long survive.

The victory of Social Democratic chief Giuseppe Saragat on the 21st ballot and the failure of the CDs to elect one of their own members to the presidency have intensified factionalism within the CD. The party is in complete disarray, as evidenced by the fact that about a third of its electors refused to observe discipline and failed to vote for Saragat. An early session of the party's national council is likely and a complete reorganization of top leadership could result.

The Socialists (PSI), who may feel that their position is somewhat strengthened by Saragat's election, will probably reconsider their previous threat to withdraw from the coalition.

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* Because of the shortage of time for preparation of this item, the analytic interpretation presented here has been produced by the Central Intelligence Agency without the participation of the Bureau of Intelligence and Research, Department of State.

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NOTE

France - Western Europe: [A French Foreign Ministry official has said that a meeting of the six Common Market countries to discuss European political unification could be held as early as next spring. He cited the "greatly improved atmosphere" resulting from the grain price agreement and the MLF impasse, and said that prior agreement on defense no longer need be a precondition to the Six's "assessing the over-all situation and deciding general principles" regarding European unity. While the French probably regard such discussions as useful in themselves, they probably also view the prospect of a meeting as an additional safeguard against possible future moves to implement the MLF proposal.]

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The Special Assistant for National Security Affairs

The Scientific Adviser to the President

The Director of the Budget

The Department of State

The Secretary of State

The Under Secretary of State

The Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs

The Deputy Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs

The Counselor and Chairman of the Policy Planning Council

The Director of Intelligence and Research

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The Secretary of the Treasury

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The Secretary of the Navy

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The Director, The Joint Staff

The Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Department of Army

The Director of Naval Intelligence, Department of Navy

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